

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 H-02 /016 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR - MR. STRASSER:LEE

APPROVED BY ARA/CAR - MR. HEAVNER

L/ARA - MR. GANTZ (DRAFT)

H - MR. FLATEN (DRAFT)

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R 201907Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, HA

SUBJECT: TRANSLINEAR

REF: PORT AU PRINCE 2864

1. TRANSLINEAR BOARD CHAIRMAN WILLIAM CROOK CONTACTED HAITI DESK ON FEBRUARY 17. HE SAID HE WAS CALLING FROM CONGRESSMAN J.J. PICKLE'S (D-TEXAS) OFFICE. CROOK SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO CLARIFICATION OF THE STATUS OF TRANSLINEAR'S PROPOSED REVISED CONTRACT WITH THE GOH SINCE HE SENT A TELEGRAM TO PRESIDENT DUVALIER DATED JULY 16, 1975. HE SAID IT IS NOW CLEAR THAT A CONTRACT WILL NOT BE SIGNED AND TRANSLINEAR WOULD BRING ACTION AGAINST HAITI FOR COMPENSATION. CROOK DID NOT SPECIFY EXACTLY WHAT FORM THIS ACTION WOULD TAKE BUT LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT HE HAD GIVEN UP HOPE OF DEALING DIRECTLY WITH HAITIANS ON THIS MATTER AND INDICATED HE WOULD BE LOOKING AT PROVISIONS OF US LAW APPLICABLE IN CASES OF CONFISCATION OF PROPERTY. HE FURTHER STATED HE HAD BEEN ASKED TO SPEAK BEFORE THE JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY SENATOR PROXMIRE, ON MARCH 2 AND 3 DURING WHICH HE WOULD TESTIFY ON AN ALLEGED EXTORTION ATTEMPT AND THE CONFISCATION OF TRANSLINEAR PROPERTY

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TION ATTEMPT AND THE CONFISCATION OF TRANSLINEAR PROPERTY

ON TORTUGA BY THE GOH.

2. CROOK CLAIMS LOSSES OF \$3 MILLION DUE TO LOSS OF PHYSICAL ACCESS 3 YEARS AGO TO 5,000 ACRE LEASEHOLD ON TORTUGA ISLAND. HE CITED \$0.5 MILLION IN EQUIPMENT ON THE ISLAND (WHICH HE ESTIMATED WOULD BE WORTH ABOUT \$150,000 DUE TO DETERIORATION); \$1 MILLION IN INFRASTRUCTURE, INCLUDING ROADS, RUNWAYS, WATER AND TOPOGRAPHIC AND PLANNING SURVEYS CONDUCTED; \$1.5 MILLION IN PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTS WITH FIRMS INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THE FREE-PORT PROJECT.

3. DEPARTMENT OFFICER QUERIED CROOK CONCERNING STEPS TRANSLINEAR MAY HAVE TAKEN TO GET GOH RESPONSE TO JULY CABLE TO DUVALIER. CROOK SAID COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES WERE BACK IN HAITI 3 OR 4 TIMES AND HAD NO SUCCESS WITH GOH. HE ALSO CLAIMED FURTHER ATTEMPTED BRIBERY. WHEN PRESSED TO TELL WHICH GOH OFFICIALS WERE CONTACTED AND WHO ATTEMPTED TO BRIBE THE COMPANY HE CITED THE BROTHER OF UNDERSECRETARY FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY HENRI BAYARD.

4. LATEST INFORMATION ON TRANSLINEAR IN DEPARTMENT IS REFTEL AND GRANT/STRASSER LETTER OF OCTOBER 14, 1975. WOULD APPRECIATE UP-DATE ON THIS CASE AND ANY INFORMATION WHICH MIGHT BE USEFUL IN ANSWERING EXPECTED CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES. INGERSOLL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NATIONALIZATION, BRIBERY, PROPERTY PROTECTION, ALLEGATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** MR. STRASSER:LEE  
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